

Workplace Alaska

Class Specification Habitat Biologist IV

Created:
06/02/1997 by Rachel Wilson
Finalized on:

AKPAY Code: P6168
Class Outline Cat: B
Approved by:

Class Code: PH0124
Class Range: 20
Class Status: Active

Category: Professional
Original Date: 04/01/1974

Class Title: Habitat Biologist IV
Use MJR Form: Standard

Original Comments:
ESTABLISHED

Subsequent Revision Dates/Comments:
02/16/77;
09/01/82 MQs.
10/01/84;
06/21/88 MQs.
11/15/96 Update; full revision (LMA/ncrago).
3/12/02 Broadened MQs and audited (LHansen/KGarrett)
01/15/2006 - Full revision (JDailey)
09/25/2008 - Workplace AK spec revision: Added Census Job Code and AKPAY Code fields; Replaced Category field with Class Outline Category; Updated EEO4, SOC, and Class Code fields; Removed DOT field.

Last Update: **EEO4:** B **SOC:** 19-1023 **Census:** 02

Last Update Comments:

Definition:

Habitat Biologist IV 1) plans, develops, coordinates, implements, and evaluates multiple, complex and controversial habitat programs and projects; or 2) is a staff assistant to a member of division management, with significant influence on habitat-related management or research policy; or 3) is a technical expert and consultant of particular program areas, providing guidance on controversial, interagency and external issues.

Option 1 is a supervisory class with substantive responsibility for the exercise of independent judgment in employing, disciplining, or adjudicating grievances of subordinates.

Distinguishing Characteristics:

The Habitat Biologist series includes professional biological job classes specializing in habitat preservation and restoration projects and activities affecting the conservation, preservation, and restoration of fish and wildlife habitat.

Habitat Biologist IV, Option 1, has significant program administration and supervisory responsibilities, involving the oversight of habitat activities and projects in a large geographical area involving development versus environmental issues, public scrutiny, controversy, and technical challenges. Under Option 2, the role is one of an assistant to divisional management with responsibilities of performing substantive research, analysis and problem solving of specialized but controversial, complex issues, affecting the division's policies, positions or recommendations. Under Option 3, the role is a technical specialty expert and consultant, developing a multiplicity of effort and policy decisions to coordinate, negotiate and resolve controversial ecological and habitat related issues among state, federal and private representatives.

The Habitat Biologist IV is distinguished from Habitat Biologist III by the responsibility of the Habitat Biologist III to perform advanced professional level biological work, either planning, evaluating and recommending substantial changes to major development projects and land use permitting, project reviews, and land transfer decisions; or researching, analyzing, and consulting on specific habitat issues impacting divisional operations and position statements. Administrative project duties exist as does the authority to commit the division to a course of action.

The Habitat Biologist IV is distinguished from Fish and Game Regional Supervisor by the responsibility of the Fish and Game Regional Supervisor to supervise and manage, for an assigned region, all fishery, wildlife or habitat resource planning, research, and management programs and activities.

Examples of Duties:

Under general direction, provide direction and administrative oversight of habitat management or research projects or activities for an assigned geographical area, such as for a region experiencing diverse and complex development. Provide direction of the evaluation of impacts of major private or public development and resource extraction projects. Review and approve department position statements, mitigation plans, and habitat protection and restoration strategies.

Function as the primary contact or project leader of interagency team efforts to identify key problems and issues. Determine project goals and objectives; establish strategies including agency responsibilities and resource commitments; determine the scope and level of scientific evaluation; coordinate the consolidation of responses and preparation of comprehensive analyses for position statements, department policy, and reports.

Establish and maintain data interchange and collaboration with other agencies and divisions. Present and defend joint project proposals, scientific findings and recommendations, and position strategies, to state and federal resource management agencies and diverse public and private audiences.

As a senior level assistant or technical consultant, consult, direct and coordinate specific functions, program areas, or issue-specific activities having significant impact on public policy, such as analyzing and assisting with negotiations, collaboration and formulation of departmental policy pertaining to federal and state discussions on the management of major, controversial, political and highly visible fish and wildlife habitat areas or public access issues. Identify scope and extent of complex, statewide impact problems and issues; assist in division development and review of proposed habitat-related state and federal joint protocols; coordinate intradepartmental and external agency discussions; lead discussions to consolidate solutions amongst all decision-makers; and represent the department as senior issues coordinator or technical consultant.

Supervise the preparation, issuing, monitoring, and enforcement of Special Area permits as required by the state's statutory management of designated refuges, critical habitat areas, ranges, and sanctuaries; or Fish Habitat and Fishway permits for proposed projects and activities possibly impacting anadromous and resident fish in freshwater bodies. Co-author and coordinate and consolidate the preparation of, comments on federal, state, and private sector project proposals; provide for continuity of interpretation and implementation of relevant department and division policies, procedures, and positions.

May supervise, with full authority, habitat management or research staff; provide technical direction; evaluate performance, and ensure program objectives and reporting requirements are met. Review and edit departmental technical and research reports and coordinate peer review of publications for dissemination through divisional publication and bulletin series.

Plan, review and commit budget needs for projects, staffing and other needed resources, and ensure fiscally sound management of projects under his/her administrative responsibility.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

Extensive knowledge of existing and emerging principles and procedures of habitat biological research, and data analysis and evaluation.

Extensive knowledge of fish and wildlife species, habitat characteristics and requirements, and ecological relationships.

Thorough knowledge of field and laboratory procedures, hypothesis testing, experimental design, and scientific documentation procedures.

Considerable knowledge of state, federal, tribal and national habitat preservation and restoration issues, problems, research objectives, strategies, state policies and regulations affecting the conservation, preservation, and restoration of fish and wildlife, their habitat and public use of, and access to, fish and wildlife.

Considerable knowledge of the characteristics, conditions and interrelationships of related disciplines such as forestry, range and grassland management, hydrology, and limnology as they apply to fish and wildlife habitat and public use issues.

Considerable knowledge of the principles and techniques of supervision and administrative management including planning, staffing, budgeting, purchasing, contracting and interagency agreements, and reporting.

Knowledge of statistical approaches.

Ability to plan, coordinate, organize, administer, and supervise research or evaluation activities of proposed projects affecting fish and wildlife species, their habitat, and public use issues.

Ability to identify and articulate problems and issues, develop and set goals and priorities, develop strategy, monitor progress and adjust resources to accomplish objectives.

Ability to analyze, determine and explain ecological and harvest variables, tolerances, and requirements in relation to multiple fish and wildlife species.

Ability to monitor projects and activities, including land transfers, for compliance with fish and wildlife habitat and access related statutes, regulations and policies.

Ability to develop and conduct biological studies, analyze and evaluate results, and prepare comprehensive, scientific reports.

Ability to organize, explain, and present information effectively, both orally and in writing, to a diverse audience such as scientists, resource consultants, environmental advocacy groups, industry representatives, and the public.

Ability to establish and maintain effective relationships with government officials, private industry representatives, sports and subsistence hunters, tribal representatives, professional peers, and others.

Ability to effectively lead or supervise lower level professional, technician and support staff, in addition to interagency teams.

Ability to use standard and specialized computer software programs to analyze scientific data.

Minimum Qualifications:

A bachelor's degree from an accredited college in biology, a branch of biology, limnology, biometrics, oceanography, forestry or natural resource management.

AND

One year of advanced professional level biologist experience, specific to land use permitting, project reviews or impact assessment of resource development on fish and wildlife habitat, and development of recommendations for mitigation strategies. The required professional biologist work experience is met by service as a Habitat Biologist III, Fishery Biologist III, or Wildlife Biologist III with the State of Alaska or the equivalent with another employer.

Substitutions: A bachelor's degree from an accredited college, which includes or is supplemented by at least 24 semester hours or 36 quarter hours in the fields listed above, of which 16 semester hours or 24 quarter hours are course work bearing course numbers of 300 or higher. There is no substitution for the required experience.

Required Job Qualifications:

(The special note is to be used to explain any additional information an applicant might need in order to understand or answer questions about the minimum qualifications.)

Special Note:

Minimum Qualification Questions:

Do you have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college in biology, a branch of biology, limnology, biometrics, oceanography, forestry or natural resource management?

AND

Do you have one year of advanced professional level biologist experience, specific to land use permitting, project reviews or impact assessment of resource development on fish and wildlife habitat, and development of recommendations for mitigation strategies. The required professional biologist work experience is met by service as a Habitat Biologist III, Fishery Biologist III, or Wildlife Biologist III with the State of Alaska or the equivalent with another employer?

Or Substitution:

Do you have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college, which includes or is supplemented by at least 24 semester hours or 36 quarter hours in the fields listed above, of which 16 semester hours or 24 quarter hours are course work bearing course numbers of 300 or higher?

AND

Do you have one year of advanced professional level biologist experience, specific to land use permitting, project reviews or impact assessment of resource development on fish and wildlife habitat, and development of recommendations for mitigation strategies. The required professional biologist work experience is met by service as a Habitat Biologist III, Fishery Biologist III, or Wildlife Biologist III with the State of Alaska or the equivalent with another employer?